

09/01/99
1553 U.S. PTO

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/05 (4/98)
Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. Y0999-294 (8728-304)

First Inventor or Application Identifier Dono et al

Title Method for Providing Temporary...

Express Mail Label No. EL192803794US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 32]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the invention
 - Brief Summary of the invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 6]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2]
 - a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
 - i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

*** NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.21), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.29).**

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

5. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above co...

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
8. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement of Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee) ☒
9. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
10. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☒ Copies of IDS Citations
11. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
12. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
13. ☐ Small Entity Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired
(PTO/SB/09-12)
14. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
15. ☒ Other: Associate Power of Attorney

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: _____

Prior application information: Examiner _____ Group / Art Unit: _____

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

or ☐ Correspondence address below

Name	Frank Chau				
Address	F. Chau & Associates, LLP 1900 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 501				
City	East Meadow	State	New York	Zip Code	11554
Country	USA	Telephone	516-357-0091	Fax	516-357-0092

Name (Print/Type)	Gaspere J. Randazzo	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	41,528
Signature	<i>Gaspere J. Randazzo</i>	Date	9/1/99

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

**METHOD FOR PROVIDING TEMPORARY ACCESS TO A
COMMONLY ACCESSIBLE COMPUTER PROCESSING SYSTEM**

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

5 The present invention relates generally to computer processing systems and, in particular, to a method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system. The method allows a mobile (e.g., traveling) individual to temporarily use a commonly accessible computer other than his or her own desktop or laptop computer and, optionally, application programs on the computer. Moreover, the method allows for the automatic customization of the computer in accordance with the preferences of the computer user. The computer is commonly accessible in that multiple users may be provided temporary access to the computers and the application programs thereon.

2. Background Description

20 Mobile computing using laptops is a constant compromise between usability, weight, performance, and power consumption. For example, laptop computers generally

include less memory than desktop computers. Most laptop computers are predominantly used as desktop replacements, both in offices and while traveling. Current application programs (also referred to herein as "applications") require significant amounts of storage, often several tens of megabytes. Accordingly, depending on the memory size of the storage device contained in the laptop, all the applications may not fit on the storage device. As such, the user may be forced to exclude some or all of the applications from the laptop. This results in the user being unable to use these excluded applications until he or she returns to the "base", desktop system. Accordingly, there is a need for technique that allows a mobile user to obtain access to his or her applications while away from a base system.

Application hosting has been used previously in client-server environments to avoid storing critical or common applications on client computers. Traditionally, server-side installation of applications has been performed to reduce: the cost of application maintenance by keeping a centralized copy of the application files; (2) the amount of client-side storage by installing the bulk of the application files on the server; and (3) the cost of license fees for the application by purchasing a limited number of

licenses that can be assigned dynamically to different clients. It is clear that application hosting is predominantly employed to lower expenses for deploying applications throughout an organization. The benefits of application hosting disappear as soon as the user cannot access the server, such as, for example, when the user is traveling. In such situations, the user is prevented from using the application unless there is an alternate way of gaining access to his or her applications. Accordingly, there is a need for a technique that allows a mobile user to obtain temporary access to his or her applications while away from a base station.

Travelling users may be able to obtain access to computers. However, these computers are unlikely to be configured similar to the user's own system. For example, the desktop settings (icons, colors, screen resolution, etc.) will likely be different. This will require the user to be familiar with the new system before he or she is able to work productively. Accordingly, there is a need for a technique that enables the personalization of a computer in accordance with the preferences of a transitory computer user.

U.S. Patent No. 5,600,781, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Creating Portable Personalized Operating Environment", issued on Feb. 4, 1997, and incorporated herein by reference, discloses the use of Smartcards to
5 personalize application and operating environments. This patent documents the feasibility of quick system personalization based on information carried in a small storage device.

It is evident that it would be highly advantageous to
10 have a method for allowing a mobile computer user to gain temporary access to application programs and to quickly change customizable system features in accordance with the preferences of the user.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention is directed to a method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system. The present invention allows a mobile computer user to use a computer other than the mobile user's desktop or laptop computers, and to optionally use
20 application programs on the computer. Moreover, the present invention allows the mobile computer user to quickly change

customizable system features of the computer in accordance with the preferences of the user.

According to an aspect of the invention, there is furnished a method for providing an individual temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system (CA computer). The CA computer has a plurality of application programs associated therewith. The method includes the step of detecting the coupling of a portable storage device to the CA computer. The storage device has stored therein an access code for indicating whether the user is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer and information including computing preferences of the individual. It is determined whether the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer, based on the access code. The CA computer is modified in accordance with the information stored in the storage device and temporary access is provided to the CA computer, when the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer. The activity of at least one of the individual and the CA computer is monitored, until the storage device is de-coupled from the CA computer. A bill is generated based on the monitoring. The bill is automatically provided to a predetermined billing mechanism.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is furnished a method for providing an individual temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system (CA computer). The CA computer has a plurality of application programs associated therewith. The method includes the step of generating a user account by coupling to the CA computer a portable storage device available to the individual, and writing an access code to storage device. The access code indicates that the user is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer. The storage device has previously stored therein information including computing preferences of the individual. It is determined whether the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer, based on the access code. The CA computer is modified in accordance with the information stored in the storage device, temporary access is provided to the CA computer, and the activity of at least one of the individual and the CA computer is monitored, when the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer. The monitoring is terminated and a bill is automatically generated based on the monitoring, when the storage device is de-coupled from the CA computer. The bill

is automatically provided to a predetermined billing mechanism.

These and other aspects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of preferred embodiments, which is to be read in connection with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a computer processing system to which the present invention may be applied according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a flow diagram illustrating the phases of a method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system (CA computer) according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps performed during an authorization phase of the method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps performed during a sign-on phase of the method for providing

temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps performed during a use phase of the method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps performed during a sign-off phase of the method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 7 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps performed during a billing phase of the method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention is directed to a method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system (hereinafter "CA computer"). The CA

computer is commonly accessible in that multiple users may be provided temporary access to the CA computer and the application programs thereon. According to the method, the user of the CA computer has a portable storage device
5 available (e.g., on his or her person) for interfacing with the CA computer.

The present invention allows an individual to use a computer (i.e., the CA computer) other than the user's desktop or laptop computers, and to optionally use
10 application programs on the computer. Moreover, the present invention allows the individual to quickly change customizable system features of the CA computer in accordance with his or her preferences. Such authorizations and customizations are automatically achieved through the
15 use of the portable storage device.

To facilitate a clear understanding of the present invention, definitions of terms employed herein will now be given. System software refers to control software that provides the basic services to a user like reading/writing
20 files, displaying data on the screen, and interfacing with different hardware components of the underlying hardware. Operating systems such as, for example, WINDOWS98 or UNIX, and middleware components, such as, for example,

web-browsers or object-brokers, are examples of system software. System software typically is specific to the underlying hardware.

Applications (or programs or application programs) refer to software programs that rely on the services provided by the system software to perform a task for the user. Typical application programs include word processors, spreadsheets, calendars, computer aided design (CAD) programs, and so forth. Application programs are normally specific to a particular system software.

User data refers to data created by the user through the use of application programs. Typically, such data is stored in a format specific to the application that was used to create the data. Changes to the user data therefore require the availability of the creating application.

Personalization settings refer to the numerous settings provided in both system software and applications that allow the user to make changes to adapt the software to his or her needs or preferences. For example, an operating system like WINDOWS98 allows for the selection and placement of icons corresponding to frequently used applications and data onto the desktop surface. Another example of personalization with respect to application programs is a

software switch that allows the automatic spell checker in a word processor to be turned on or off. Further examples include: the desktop settings, such as, for example, color scheme, font size, desktop pattern and screen saver; the setting of application options, such as, for example, preferred directories or default font size; user-specific tables like address books or bookmarks; and so forth.

Portable storage device refers to a physical device that provides permanent storage and that can be removed easily from the CA computer. Examples of such devices are diskettes, flash memory cards for use in a PCMCIA slot, removable hard-drives like the IBM MICRODRIVE or the IOMEGA JAZZ cartridges, and so forth. However, the present invention is not limited to the above recited examples and, thus, other types of portable storage devices may be used, including those which communicate by infrared and/or radio frequency.

Primary computer processing system (or primary computer) refers to the user's own computer. For the user, access to this computer is unrestricted and he or she has privileges to add, remove or change applications and data at will.

Commonly accessible computer processing system ("CA
computer") refers to a computer used temporarily to access
data while away from the primary computer. The user
typically does not have unrestricted access to this computer
and does not have full privileges for access to all
resources of this computer.

It is to be understood that the present invention may
be implemented in various forms of hardware, software,
firmware, special purpose processors, or a combination
thereof. Preferably, the present invention is implemented
in software as a program tangibly embodied on a program
storage device. The program may be uploaded to, and
executed by, a machine comprising any suitable architecture.
Preferably, the machine is implemented on a computer
platform having hardware such as one or more central
processing units (CPU), a random access memory (RAM), and
input/output (I/O) interface(s). The computer platform also
includes an operating system and microinstruction code. The
various processes and functions described herein may either
be part of the microinstruction code or part of the program
(or a combination thereof) which is executed via the
operating system. In addition, various other peripheral

devices may be connected to the computer platform such as an additional data storage device and a printing device.

It is to be further understood that, because some of the constituent system components and method steps depicted in the accompanying figures are preferably implemented in software, the actual connections between the system components (or the process steps) may differ depending upon the manner in which the present invention is programmed.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a computer processing system (CA computer) 100 to which the present invention may be applied according to an embodiment of the present invention. The CA computer 100 includes at least one processor (CPU) 102 operatively coupled to other components via a system bus 104. A read only memory (ROM) 106, a random access memory (RAM) 108, a display adapter 110, an I/O adapter 112, a user interface adapter 114, and a communications adapter 128 are operatively coupled to system bus 104.

A display device 116 is operatively coupled to system bus 104 by display adapter 110. A disk storage device (e.g., a magnetic or optical disk storage device) 118 is operatively couple to system bus 104 by I/O adapter 112.

667050 "CST 43860"
A mouse 120 and keyboard 124 are operatively coupled
to system bus 104 by user interface adapter 114. The mouse
and keyboard may be used to input and output information to
and from the CA computer 100. An interface device 140 is
5 also operatively coupled to system bus 104 by user interface
adapter 114. The interface device 140 allows the CA
computer to interface with a portable storage device 142,
described more fully hereinbelow. In a preferred embodiment
of the present invention, the portable storage device 142 is
10 a PCMCIA card and the interface device 140 is a PCMCIA
reader.

The CA computer 100 may communicate with another
computer(s) through communications adapter 128. The other
computer(s) may be part of an intranet or the Internet.

15 A general description of the present invention will
now be provided to introduce the reader to the concepts of
the invention. Subsequently, more detailed descriptions of
various aspects of the invention will be provided.

20 The present invention is directed to a method for
providing temporary access to a commonly accessible
computer, the CA computer user having a storage device on
his or her person for interfacing with the CA computer. The
method may be used by entities such as, for example, hotels

or internet cafes. The CA computer users may be, for example, individuals traveling on business or those desiring to "chat" in an internet chat room. The storage device may be, for example, a SMARTCARD, COMPACTFLASH, small disk drive, and so forth. The storage device includes pertinent information about the user.

The user can access the commonly accessible computer by inserting his or her portable storage device into a matching interface. The business reads the user information stored in the portable storage device and authorizes the user to access the CA computer. This will change the personalization settings on the CA computer to match the information on the user's storage device.

The CA computer may run application programs stored on the portable storage device. Additionally or alternatively, the entities may provide authorization to use one or more applications available on the CA computer.

Fees are automatically incurred as the user runs applications provided on the CA computer. Upon completion, the user removes his storage device from the CA computer. This will automatically remove the user information and data from that CA computer and initiate a billing process that charges the user's account for the services.

FIG. 2 is a flow diagram illustrating the phases of a method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system (CA computer) according to an embodiment of the present invention. The method is divided into the following phases: authorization 300; sign-on 400; use 500; sign-off 600; and billing 700.

During the authorization phase 300, the user is granted access to the CA computer 100 and provided with a user account on the CA computer 100. Access is granted by storing an encrypted access code on the user's portable storage device 142. The user account is used to record the user activity during the Use phase. These records form the basis of the billing phase.

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps performed during the authorization phase 300 of the method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system according to an embodiment of the present invention. The portable storage device 142 is coupled to an interface device 140 that can access and modify the contents of the portable storage device 142 (step 302). Then, a user-specific access code is written to the portable storage device 142 that authorizes the use of various services, including entry to a set of rooms, billing

of meals, access to the common computer, and so forth (step 304). Depending on the agreement between the service provider and the user, the access code may only grant access to certain services. Optionally, prepaid usage credits are stored on the portable storage device 142 (step 306). In an alternative embodiment, these usage credits may be stored on a central server (not shown) instead of the portable storage device 142. After completion of the authorization step, the portable storage device 142 is de-coupled from the interface device 140 (step 308).

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps performed during the sign-on phase 400 of the method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system according to an embodiment of the present invention. The sign-on phase 400 is initiated when the user couples the portable storage device 142 to the CA computer 100 (step 402). This connection is detected automatically. The user authorization is then checked/verified by inspecting the authorization code that was stored on the portable storage device 142 in step 304 (step 404). Then, the user's personalization information is read from the portable storage device 142 (step 406) and the customizable system and application settings are changed in accordance

with the user's preferences (step 408). At the end of the sign-on phase 400, an automatic monitoring system is started on the CA computer 100 that tracks user activity (step 410).

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps performed during the use phase 500 of the method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system according to an embodiment of the present invention. During the use phase 500, the user works with the CA computer 100 as if it were his primary computer. The user's use of the CA computer 100 is monitored (e.g., by monitoring the user's and/or the computer's activity) (step 502), and an activity log is generated based on such monitoring (step 504). The user can use applications present on the CA computer 100 and/or applications that are resident on the portable storage device 142. If billing occurs by user activity, several existing methods, as well as other methods, may be used to monitor the user's actions. For instance, some operating systems (like Windows NT) have built-in auditing capabilities that can generate reports on how often and how intensely a computer was used over a certain period of time. Alternatively, a privileged application may be installed on the CA computer 100 to periodically sample and record the active processes together

with their consumption of CPU time. This information may be used to determine the amount the user is to be billed.

FIG. 6 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps performed during the sign-off phase 600 of the method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system according to an embodiment of the present invention. Once the user has completed his work on the CA computer 100, he or she disconnects the portable storage device 142 (step 602). This initiates the sign-off phase 600. During sign-off, the system saves and/or forwards the user activity log for processing (step 604). At the end of the sign-off phase 600, all personalization information introduced during the sign-on phase 300 is removed and the system returns to its default configuration (step 606).

FIG. 7 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps performed during the billing phase 700 of the method for providing temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system according to an embodiment of the present invention. In the billing phase 700, the log is converted to a bill for the services incurred according to cost schedule (step 702). Different such schedules are conceivable, such as, for example, billing for total time signed-on to the CA computer 100 or billing for time spent

running applications stored on the CA computer 100. The final amount will be automatically posted to the user's account or deducted from his credit card (step 704). It is to be appreciated that other predetermined billing mechanisms may also be used other than the user's account or credit card. Since the billing phase 700 can be performed based solely on information created on the CA computer 100, there is no need to interact again with a customer representative or a service center.

The above described method applies equally to installations where the user interacts directly with the CA computer 100, e.g. a PC, or via a remote interface like the X-Windows protocol or Citrix Windows Terminal. In any case, the user-interface is similar to the one on the primary computer.

Although the illustrative embodiments have been described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that the present system and method is not limited to those precise embodiments, and that various other changes and modifications may be affected therein by one skilled in the art without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. All such changes and

modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

651060 " 43460

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing an individual temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system (CA computer), the CA computer having a plurality of application programs associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting the coupling of a portable storage device to the CA computer, the storage device having stored therein an access code for indicating whether the user is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer and information comprising computing preferences of the individual;

determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer, based on the access code;

modifying the CA computer in accordance with the information stored in the storage device and providing temporary access to the CA computer, when the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer;

monitoring the activity of at least one of the individual and the CA computer, until the storage device is de-coupled from the CA computer;

generating a bill based on said monitoring; and

automatically providing the bill to a predetermined billing mechanism.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of generating the bill comprises the steps of:

5 generating an activity log based on said monitoring;
and

converting the activity log into the bill.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of inhibiting temporary access to the CA computer, when the individual is not authorized to access
10 the CA computer.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the portable storage device comprises a PCMCIA card.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
15 PCMCIA card comprises a flash memory card.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined billing mechanism is associated with one of a user account and a credit card.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the access code stored in the storage device further indicates whether the user is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer, and which of the plurality of application programs such authorization is provided thereto.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer, based on the access code; and

providing temporary access to the application programs associated with the CA computer for which authorization is indicated, when the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the portable storage device further stores therein application programs associated with the user, and said step of providing temporary access to the CA computer further

comprises the step providing temporary access to the application programs stored in the portable storage device for execution by the CA computer.

10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing the individual with a user account by writing the access code to the portable storage device, before said step of determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer.

11. A method for providing an individual temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system (CA computer), the CA computer having a plurality of application programs associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a user account by coupling to the CA computer a portable storage device available to the individual, and writing an access code to storage device, the access code indicating that the user is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer, the storage device having previously stored therein information comprising computing preferences of the individual;

determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer, based on the access code;

modifying the CA computer in accordance with the information stored in the storage device, providing temporary access to the CA computer, and monitoring the activity of at least one of the individual and the CA computer, when the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer;

terminating said monitoring and automatically generating a bill based on said monitoring, when the storage device is de-coupled from the CA computer; and

automatically providing the bill to a predetermined billing mechanism.

12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of inhibiting temporary access to the CA computer, when the individual is not authorized to access the CA computer.

13. The method according to claim 11, wherein the access code stored in the storage device further indicates whether the user is authorized to temporarily use any of the

plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer, and which of the plurality of application programs such authorization is provided thereto.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said
5 method further comprises the steps of:

determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer, based on the access code; and

10 providing temporary access to the application programs associated with the CA computer for which authorization is indicated, when the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer.

15 15. The method according to claim 11, wherein the portable storage device further stores therein application programs associated with the user, and said step of providing temporary access to the CA computer further comprises the step providing temporary access to the
20 application programs stored in the portable storage device for execution by the CA computer.

16. A program storage device readable by machine,
tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by
the machine to perform method steps for providing an
individual temporary access to a commonly accessible
computer processing system (CA computer), the CA computer
having a plurality of application programs associated
therewith, said method steps comprising:

detecting the coupling of a portable storage device
to the CA computer, the storage device having stored therein
an access code for indicating whether the user is authorized
to temporarily access the CA computer and information
comprising computing preferences of the individual;

determining whether the individual is authorized to
temporarily access the CA computer, based on the access
code;

modifying the CA computer in accordance with the
information stored in the storage device and providing
temporary access to the CA computer, when the individual is
authorized to temporarily access the CA computer;

monitoring the activity of at least one of the
individual and the CA computer, until the storage device is
de-coupled from the CA computer;

generating a bill based on said monitoring; and

automatically providing the bill to a predetermined
billing mechanism.

17. The program storage device according to claim
16, wherein said step of generating the bill comprises the
5 steps of:

generating an activity log based on said monitoring;
and

converting the activity log into the bill.

18. The program storage device according to claim
10 16, further comprising the step of inhibiting temporary
access to the CA computer, when the individual is not
authorized to access the CA computer.

19. The program storage device according to claim
16, wherein the predetermined billing mechanism is
15 associated with one of a user account and a credit card.

20. The program storage device according to claim
16, wherein the access code stored in the storage device
further indicates whether the user is authorized to
temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs

associated with the CA computer, and which of the plurality of application programs such authorization is provided thereto.

21. The program storage device according to claim
5 20, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer, based on the access code; and

10 providing temporary access to the application programs associated with the CA computer for which authorization is indicated, when the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer.

15 22. The program storage device according to claim 16, wherein the portable storage device further stores therein application programs associated with the user, and said step of providing temporary access to the CA computer further comprises the step providing temporary access to the
20 application programs stored in the portable storage device for execution by the CA computer.

**METHOD FOR PROVIDING TEMPORARY ACCESS TO A
COMMONLY ACCESSIBLE COMPUTER PROCESSING SYSTEM**

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

There is furnished a method for providing an individual temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system (CA computer). The CA computer has a plurality of application programs associated therewith. The method includes the step of detecting the coupling of a portable storage device to the CA computer. The storage device has stored therein an access code for indicating whether the user is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer and information including computing preferences of the individual. It is determined whether the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer, based on the access code. The CA computer is modified in accordance with the information stored in the storage device and temporary access is provided to the CA computer, when the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer. The activity of at least one of the individual and the CA computer is monitored, until the storage device is de-coupled from the CA computer. A bill

is generated based on the monitoring. The bill is automatically provided to a predetermined billing mechanism.

66T060" 23423260

1/6
Dono et al.
Y 0999-294 (DWC) (8728-304)

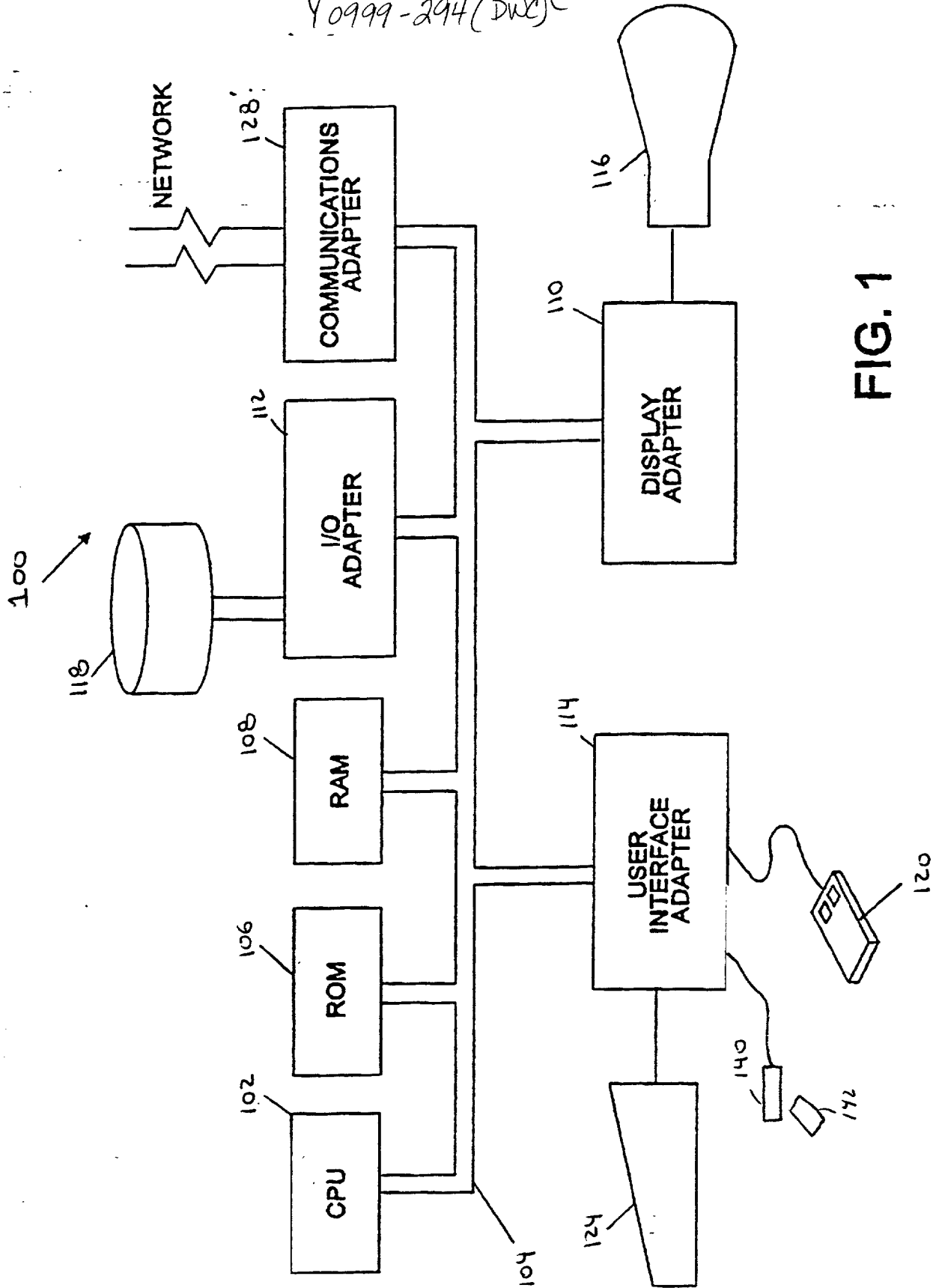


FIG. 1

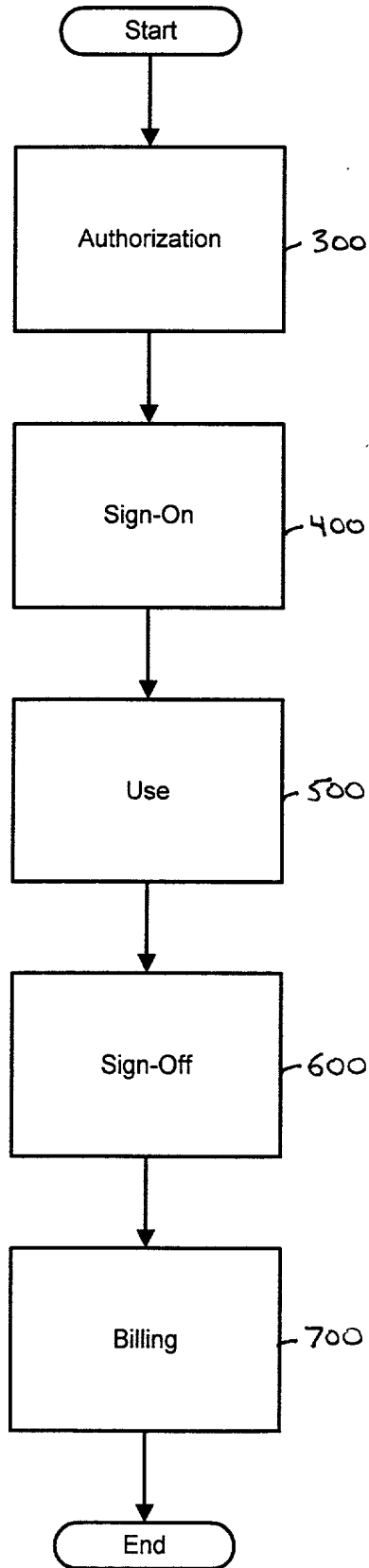


FIG. 2

3/6-
Y0999-294(8728-304)

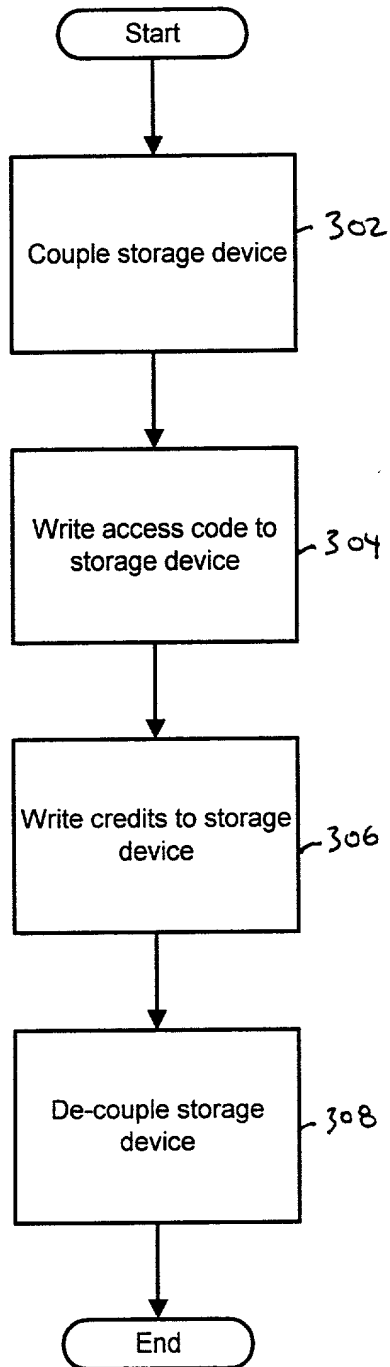


FIG. 3

4/6
Y0999-294 (8728-304)

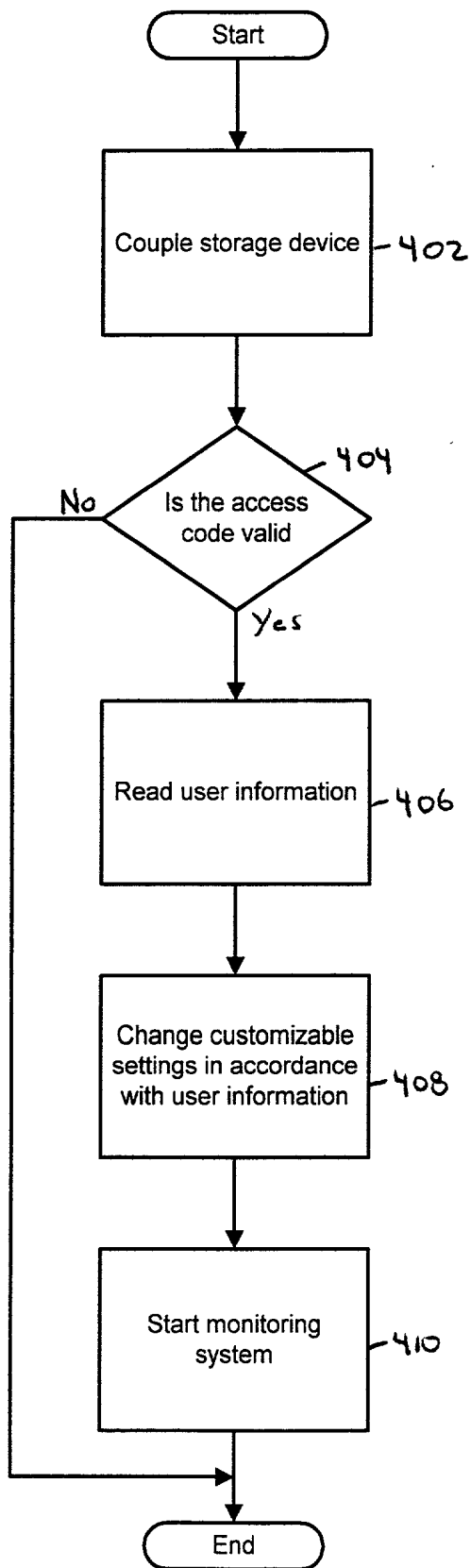


FIG. 4

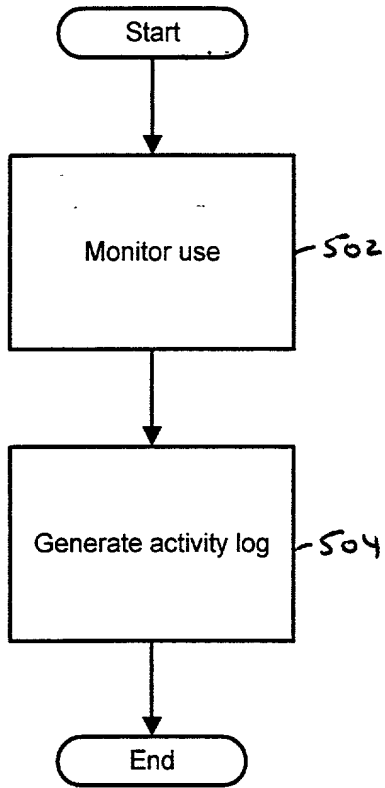


FIG. 5

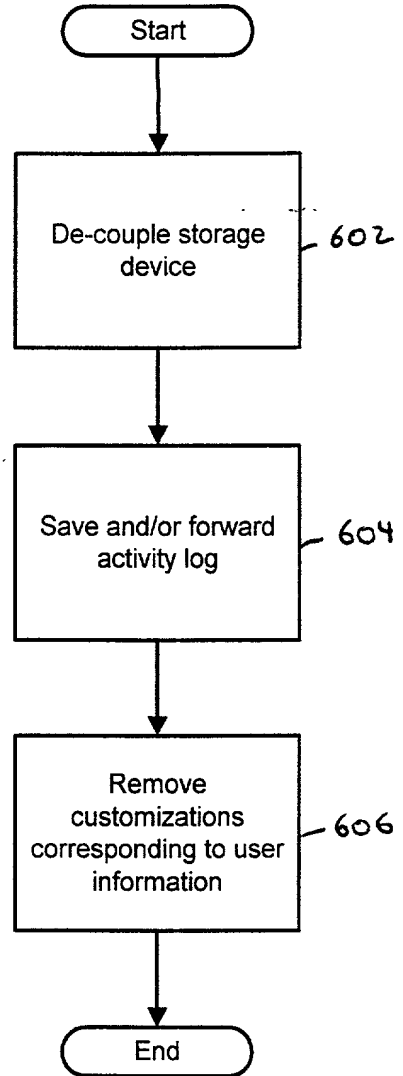


FIG. 6

6/6
Y0999-294 (8728-304)

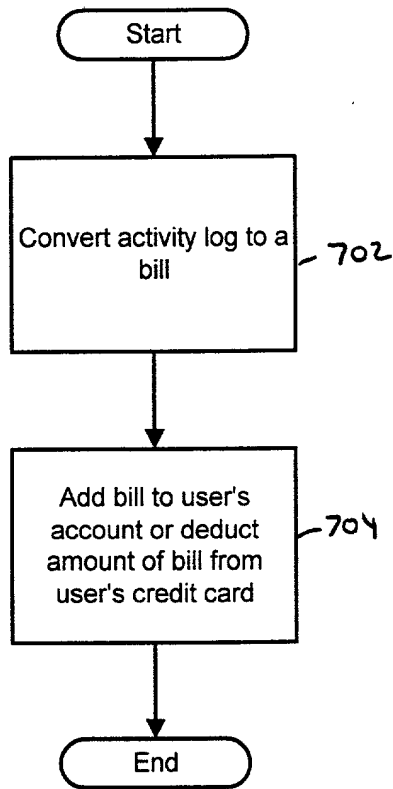


FIG. 7

AS A BELOW NAMED INVENTOR, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole (*if only one name is listed below*), or an original, first and joint inventor (*if plural names are listed below*), of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TITLE: METHOD FOR PROVIDING TEMPORARY ACCESS TO A COMMONLY ACCESSIBLE COMPUTER PROCESSING SYSTEM

the specification of which either is attached hereto or indicates an attorney docket no. YO999-294 (8728-304), or:

☐ was filed in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on _____ and assigned Serial No. _____,

☐ and (*if applicable*) was amended on _____,

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability and to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations §1.56. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, U.S. Code §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States, or §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s), listed below and have also identified below any foreign applications for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Priority Claimed:

Yes [] No []

(Application Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year filed)

(Application Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year filed) Yes [] No []

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, U.S. Code, §120, of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, U.S. Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to patentability as defined in Title 37, The Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial Number) (Filing Date) (STATUS: patented, pending, abandoned)

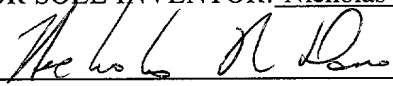
(Application Serial Number) (Filing Date) (STATUS: patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the following attorneys: MANNY W. SCHECTER, Reg. No. 31,722; TERRY J. ILARDI, Reg. 29,936; CHRISTOPHER A. HUGHES, Reg. No. 26,914; EDWARD A. PENNINGTON, Reg. No. 32,588; JOHN E. HOEL, Reg. No. 26,279; JOSEPH C. REDMOND, Jr., Reg. No. 18,753; KEVIN M. JORDAN, Reg. No. 40,277; STEPHEN C. KAUFMAN, Reg. No. 29,551; JAY P. SBROLLINI, Reg. No. 36,266; DAVID M. SHOFI, Reg. No. 39,835; ROBERT M. TREPP, Reg. No. 25,933; LOUIS P. HERZBERG, Reg. No. 41,500; DANIEL P. MORRIS, Reg. No. 32,053; DOUGLAS W. CAMERON, Reg. No. 31,596; LOUIS J. PERCELLO, Reg. No. 33,206; and PAUL J. OTTERSTEDT, Reg. No. 37,411; each of them of INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION, Thomas J. Watson Research Center, P.O. Box 218, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598; to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and with any divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part, reissue or re-examination application, with full power of appointment and with full power to substitute an associate attorney or agent, and to receive all patents which may issue thereon, and request that all correspondence be addressed to:

Frank Chau, Esq.
F. CHAU & ASSOCIATES, LLP
1900 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 501
East Meadow, New York 11554
Tel.: 516-357-0091

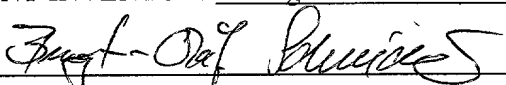
I HEREBY DECLARE that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 U.S. Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF FIRST OR SOLE INVENTOR: Nicholas R. Dono Citizenship U.S.A.

Inventor's signature:  Date: 5-31-99

Residence & Post Office Address: 17 Aspen Road
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR: Bengt-Olaf Schneider Citizenship Germany

Inventor's signature:  Date: Aug 31, 1999

Residence & Post Office Address: 515 Croton Heights Road
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

FULL NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR: _____ Citizenship _____

Inventor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence & Post Office Address: _____

FULL NAME OF FOURTH JOINT INVENTOR: _____ Citizenship _____

Inventor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence & Post Office Address: _____

FULL NAME OF FIFTH JOINT INVENTOR: _____ Citizenship _____

Inventor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence & Post Office Address: _____

FULL NAME OF SIXTH JOINT INVENTOR: _____ Citizenship _____

Inventor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence & Post Office Address: _____

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Nicholas R. Dono, Bengt-Olaf Schneider

SERIAL NO.: Unassigned

FILED: Concurrently herewith

FOR: **METHOD FOR PROVIDING TEMPORARY ACCESS
TO A COMMONLY ACCESSIBLE COMPUTER
PROCESSING SYSTEM**

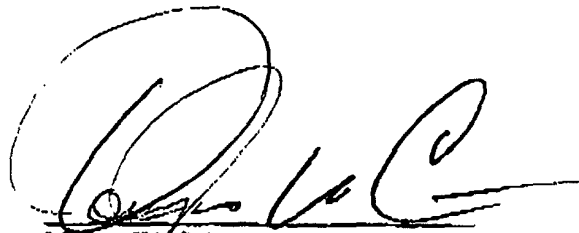
ASSOCIATE POWER OF ATTORNEY

Please recognize **FRANK CHAU**, Reg. No. 34,136; **JAMES J. BITETTO**, Reg. No. 40,513; **FRANK V. DeROSA**, Reg. No. 43,584; and **GASPARE J. RANDAZZO**, Reg. No. 41,528; each of them of **F. CHAU & ASSOCIATES, LLP**, 1900 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 501, East Meadow, New York 11554 as associate attorneys in the above-mentioned application, with full power to prosecute said application, to make alterations and amendments therein, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Telephone calls should be made to Frank Chau by dialing (516) 357-0091.

All written communications are to be sent to Frank Chau, Esq., **F. Chau & Associates, LLP**, 1900 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 501, East Meadow, New York 11554.

International Business Machines
Corporation
T.J. Watson Research Center
Route 134 and Kitchawan Road
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598



Manny W. Schecter
Registration No. 31,722
Douglas W. Cameron
Registration No. 31,596
Attorney for Applicant(s)